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all having the above designated address.

An executed Certificate Under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

SURTEC PRODUKTE UND SYSTEM FUR DIE
OBERFLACHENBEHANDLUNG GMBH

By Patricia Reickschat
[signature]
Print Name: Patricia Reickschat
Print Title: Technical Director General Manager

Date: 11.05.1999

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: P. Preikschat et al. : Art Unit:
Serial No.: To Be Assigned : Examiner:
Filed: Herewith :
For: **CHROMIUM(VI)-FREE CONVERSION LAYER
AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING IT**

POWER OF ATTORNEY BY ASSIGNEE UNDER RULE 32

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The undersigned assignee of the entire interest in the above-identified patent application hereby appoints the following attorneys and/or agents, Viviana Amzel, Esq., Reg. No. 30,930; Jeffrey F. Craft, Esq., Reg. No. 30,044; Edward G. Poplawski, Esq., Reg. No. 33,439; and Mark E. Hankin, Esq., Reg. No. 38,908, to prosecute and transact all business in the US Patent and Trademark Office relating to this application, this appointment to be to the exclusion of the inventors and their attorney(s) in accordance with the provisions of Rule 32 of the Patent Office Rules of Practice.

Please send all future correspondence, and direct all telephone calls to:

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Assignee: SurTec Produkte und System für die
Oberflächenbehandlung GmbH

Signature: Patricia Preikschat Date: 12.03.1999

Name: Patricia Preikschat

Title: Managing Director